TENNESSEE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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TENNESSEE WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

Released Weekly April - November

2003 Weather Crop 07 | Issued 3:00 P.M. 05/19/03 | Week Ending May 18, 2003

SERIOUS FIELDWORK DELAYS CONTINUE

Rainfall throughout the Volunteer State delayed field activity for the second consecutive week. Prolonged wet conditions hindered all crops' progress, especially corn and soybean planting, hay harvesting and tobacco transplanting. Corn growers have assessed some of the flood damage in low-lying areas and were able to re-plant some acreage last week. Nearly all of the State's winter wheat crop is headed out and over a fifth of the crop is turning color. The wheat crop continues to be rated in mostly good condition despite recent adverse weather. Reports from across the State indicated that, as of Sunday, 5 percent of the State's estimated 300,000 wheat acres for harvest suffered severe damage and 10 percent moderate damage. Nursery growers were busy with fertilization and weed control last week. Farmers are concerned about the amount of acreage loss and hay quality since some fields remain under water. Temperatures and rainfall averaged well above normal for the West and near normal in Middle and East Tennessee. There were only 3 days considered suitable for fieldwork during the past week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 59 percent adequate and 41 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 65 percent adequate and 35 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS: Through May 18, 2003

Crop	This Week	Last Week	2002	Five Year Avg.
	Percent			
Winter Wheat - Headed	95	85	95	98
Winter Wheat - Turning color	23	N/A	12	26
Corn - Planted	90	86	95	94
Corn - Emerged	87	83	88	84
Cotton - Planted	38	23	59	69
Soybeans - Planted	9	4	19	20
Tobacco - Transplanted	18	4	21	30
Alfalfa Hay - First Cutting	30	11	28	52
Other Hay - First Cutting	17	8	18	35

CONDITION: On May 16, 2003

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
	Percent				
Wheat	4	8	23	52	13
Corn	7	11	26	44	12
Alfalfa Hay	1	5	29	55	10
Other Hay	3	8	25	52	12
Pastures	1	4	15	62	18

WHEAT: Nearly all of the wheat crop has headed. The crop continues to be rated in mostly good condition with over a fifth of the acreage turning color. Agricultural Extension Service Agent reports assessed weather damage to wheat acreage at 65 percent none, 20 percent light, 10 percent moderate, and 5 percent severe.

CORN: As of Sunday, 90 percent of the State's acreage had been planted with 87 percent emerged. Nearly 20 percent of the crop was rated in very poor-to-poor condition, compared to 11 percent a week earlier. Several acres of corn will likely need to be re-planted as flooding and wet soil conditions reduced stands and caused poor germination.

COTTON: Wet weather hindered cotton planting progress and development. Fields will have to dry out considerably before growers can make good progress. Currently, 38 percent of the cotton acreage has been planted, lagging significantly behind last year and the normal pace. Cotton planting at week's end was a full 10 days behind the usual pace.

SOYBEANS: Almost 10 percent of the State's soybean acreage has been planted. Last week's showers and thunderstorms prevented producers from making any substantial progress. The crop continues to lag behind last year and the 5-year average.

TOBACCO: Eighteen percent of the tobacco acreage had been transplanted as of Sunday. Growers are in need of drier conditions to finish setting the crop.

PASTURES & HAY: Although the State experienced heavy rains last week, hay growers had completed harvest on 30 percent of the alfalfa acreage and almost 20 percent of other hay. Farmers are hoping for drier weather conditions to continue cutting hay before fields become too ripe. Several growers are worried about the quantity and quality of this year's hay.

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: 05/18/03 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE Week Ending 05/18/03				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
					Current Week	Rain	Current Since	From	Since April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	05/18/03	Days	January 1	Normal	Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	85	50	68	+0	2.91	4	31.43	+8.86	319	+70
Tri-City_RGNL_A	78	46	63	+0	1.09	4	22.22	+6.31	154	+67
Brownsville_TN	86	53	69	+1	3.19	3	26.35	+3.80	346	+192
Chattanooga/Lov	85	50	69	+3	2.12	5	29.07	+6.41	296	+123
Clarksville_Sew	80	49	68	+3	1.45	4	18.78	-1.85	288	+112
Cookeville	82	45	65	+0	1.51	2	34.06	+11.17	203	+141
Covington	84	52	67	-2	4.90	3	28.24	+5.75	296	+76
Crossville_AP	79	48	65	+3	1.19	4	33.41	+10.52	197	+107
Dickson_AG	80	45	66	-1	0.38	1	24.91	+2.81	242	+57
Dover_1W	82	49	66	+2	1.33	3	25.14	+3.55	236	+95
Dyersburg	84	54	69	-1	3.13	3	22.74	+2.35	331	+76
Erwin_1W	81	49	63	+2	0.94	4	20.29	+2.12	143	+16
Huntingdon_Wate	85	50	67	+0	2.19	3	25.67	+4.19	276	+125
Jackson_AG	84	52	68	+1	2.13	2	22.30	+0.66	309	+103
Kingston_AG	80	46	65	+2	2.57	3	28.09	+4.33	190	+86
Knoxville_AP	83	49	67	+2	0.95	3	27.12	+7.70	239	+109
Lewisburg	81	41	65	+0	1.19	2	29.33	+6.71	227	+93
Lexington_TN	84	48	66	-1	2.18	2	26.05	+5.19	268	+201
Linden	83	46	66	+1	1.52	3	29.50	+6.38	244	+87
Martin	85	50	67	+1	4.22	2	26.44	+5.30	284	+105
Mc_Minnville_Tn	84	46	67	+2	1.72	3	30.37	+8.51	277	+50
Memphis_AG	85	53	68	-3	4.51	5	26.63	+4.62	344	+36
Milan	85	50	68	+2	3.27	2	28.03	+6.29	311	+132
Murfreesboro_5N	84	47	67	+2	0.79	3	26.33	+4.89	245	-13
Nashville_Metro	83	49	68	+0	0.99	2	29.18	+9.68	294	+98
Newcomb	79	43	63	+3	1.75	4	26.15	+4.73	167	+103
Oneida	78	45	64	+3	1.43	5	24.24	+2.82	163	-18
Pikeville	83	44	67	+2	2.53	3	31.35	+8.90	233	+97
Portland_TN	80	52	66	+2	1.41	4	24.07	+3.41	219	+91
Pulaski_Water_P	82	47	66	-3	1.31	3	33.15	+10.30	253	+41
Savannah_6SW	83	49	65	-4	2.58	4	31.77	+7.42	213	+48
Sparta_TN	83	48	68	+4	1.55	4	31.47	+9.13	271	+160
Springfield	81	47	66	+1	0.67	4	20.45	+0.43	235	+110
Springhill	84	46	67	+3	1.24	2	28.01	+5.01	282	+150
Union_City	85	51	67	+1	2.23	2	26.41	+5.54	253	+83
Waynesboro_TN	83	46	66	+2	2.33	4	31.25	+6.75	248	+61

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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